

SLOPER'S TOWER ROYAL WORKS

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In Bulletin number 322 (February 2003), pages 10-11, Dave Hill gave a chronological list of Joseph Sloper's City premises, and added that the Tower Royal Works existed at West Hampstead from 1872-1991.

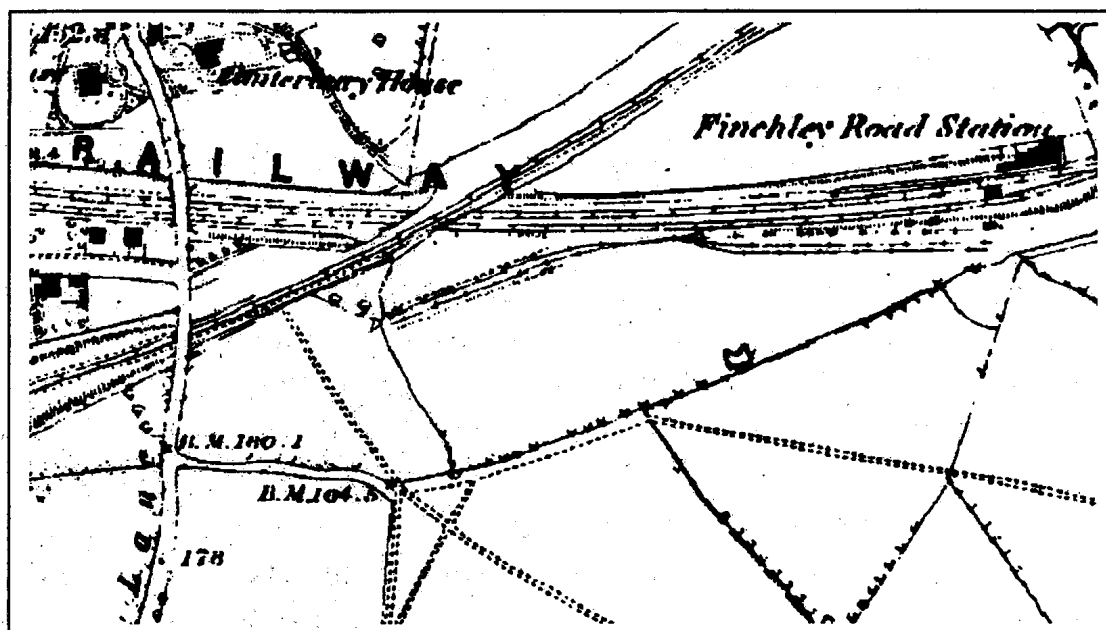
On going through the London Directories (actually trying to find Sloper employees), I found that the 1875 edition gives the company address as (only) Walbrook House, EC. The following year, the entry shows addresses as 6 & 7 King William Street, EC, and a manufactory as Tower Royal Works, NW. I wonder if the move to 6 & 7 King William Street coincided with the move of the manufacturing operations to West Hampstead, as a means of reducing the cost of rental of premises in the city (and to allow expansion of the business). This would be consistent with Dave's reporting that Joseph Sloper was upset at having to move from 6 & 7 King William Street only 3 years later because the Post Office did not consider it an appropriate position for a Sub-Post-Office.

The date for the establishment of the manufactory at West Hampstead could be further indicated by the Internet web site www.old-maps.co.uk which contains 19th Century Ordnance Survey maps. The maps for the West Hampstead area are dated 1873-1874, and show no buildings on the east side of West End Lane, and no Blackburn Road, south of the Midland Railway and London and North-Western Railway lines.

Some of the editions of the London Directories include sections for "Northern Suburbs" and "Southern Suburbs". In the 1876 edition Northern Suburbs section, there is an entry for "Tower Royal Works for Sloper's Patents, West End, Hampstead". In the same section, Joseph Sloper is shown as living at 41, St. Julian's Road, Kilburn. There was no entry for Tower Royal Works in the 1872 edition Northern Suburbs section although Joseph Sloper was listed at St Julian's Road at this time.

In the 1888 Northern Suburbs section, the address of Tower Royal Works is changed to 'West End Lane, Hampstead', and in 1892 it is first shown as

"Blackburn Road". From 1894, the name of the premises changes to "J. Sloper & Co., engineers".



Section of 1873-1874 Ordnance Survey map of West Hampstead area.
Blackburn Road now runs off east side of West End Lane,
between "B.M. 180.1" and the lower railway line.

On reflection, it would seem that the memo written by J.L.L. Sloper (Joseph Lavell Leete Sloper - Joseph's eldest son) to (his brother) Horace in 1869 (see Dave Scott's article in Bulletin number 264, June 1993, page 7) was a purely internal one within Walbrook House.

Footnote on Joseph's family.

It has previously been reported that Horace was Joseph's eldest son, born 1844. Joseph Lavell Leete Sloper was born in the first quarter of 1841 and died on 1 January, 1877. His death notice appeared in "The Times" two days later, and describes him as the eldest son of Joseph Sloper of St. Julian's Road, Kilburn.

Recently, I have also gained access to part of the 1871 Census of England and Wales. At this census, Joseph Sloper was living at 41 St. Julian's Road, Kilburn, along with his wife Sarah, and children Fanny, Kate, Frank (!), Percy and Eustace. Joseph's two eldest sons, Joseph Lavell Leete and Horace must have been living separately. Daughter Ellen at the 1871 Census

was governess to the family of Thomas W.D. Brooks, vicar of Flitwick, Bedfordshire. Alice must have been living in Warwickshire, where she was christened in 1872. Frank was a previously unknown (to me) son of Joseph. Percy was described as Joseph's fourth son in his obituary. ' The children were thus Joseph Lavell Leete, Fanny, Horace, Ellen, Alice, Frank, Kate, Percy and Eustace. Frank appears not to have been involved in the family business. He may be the Frank Sloper (born Marylebone 1853) listed in the 1901 Census as a Commission agent (tea) living at Camberwell, South London.

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